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Press Release

General Petraeus, Commander of the United States Central Command, visited Kyrgyzstan March 9 – 11, 2010. General Petraeus met with President Bakiyev to discuss U.S.-Kyrgyz bilateral relations and cooperation.

General Petraeus also reviewed the U.S. military humanitarian assistance projects in the Kyrgyz Republic and participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of a women's crisis center at the Congress of Women's Business Incubator. The U.S. government has committed \$700,000 for the construction of the shelter. The shelter will provide a safe place for all women who have been brutalized or victimized, including victims of domestic violence and women who have been trafficked.

General Petraeus also visited the Transit Center at Manas International Airport, where he met with the military servicemen who are dedicated to supporting the coalition efforts in Afghanistan. He thanked them for their around-the-clock work which includes strategic airlift operations, aerial refueling, as well as medical evacuation support when needed.

As Commander of the United States Central Command, General Petraeus has overall responsibility for American forces serving in a large area of the globe, including both Iraq and Afghanistan. General Petraeus graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1974. He has held leadership positions in airborne, mechanized, and air assault infantry units in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. General Petraeus was the General George C. Marshall Award winner as the top graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Class of 1983. He has earned MPA and Ph.D. degrees in international relations from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and later served as an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the U.S. Military Academy.

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